

## Delta Plan Development

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**Summary:** Preparation of the Delta Plan will be initiated with development of white papers, the Delta Plan framework, and Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the Environmental Impact Report (EIR). A Draft Delta Plan and Draft EIR will be prepared by June 2011, and the Final Delta Plan and Final EIR will be prepared by December 2011 to comply with Water Code section 85300.

Comments from other agencies, stakeholders, interest groups, and the public will be used to inform and provide information for the development of the Delta Plan and EIR. The comment matrix provides a format to direct comments to specific issue areas that contribute to preparation of the Delta Plan and EIR. The comment matrix also indicates the use of the comments in preparation of the Delta Plan and EIR.

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### **Background**

During preparation of the Delta Plan and EIR, the Delta Stewardship Council (Council) will consider background information related to implementation of the coequal goals established by SBX7 1. White papers will be prepared to describe historical and existing conditions and ongoing trends related to water resources and water quality, Delta ecosystem, Delta as an Evolving Place, and reduced risks. Preliminary versions of the Delta Plan framework and other portions of the Delta Plan and the EIR will be provided for review by the Council and others between October 2010 and June 2011, as shown on the Preliminary Schedule (Agenda Item 17a).

One of the first steps in developing the Draft EIR will be to prepare and publish a Notice of Preparation (NOP). The NOP will be prepared in accordance with the draft requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The first portion of the NOP (Agenda Item 17b) includes the following sections:

- Introduction
- Purpose of Notice of Preparation
- Background and Need for the Project
- Project Objectives

The preliminary initial sections are provided for review and comment by the Council. The remaining sections of the NOP, including proposed Environmental Baseline, Preliminary Proposed Project and Potential Alternatives, and Project Scoping Process will be provided for Council review in October 2010. It is anticipated that in November 2010 the Council will consider approval of the complete NOP for publication.

Comments submitted to the Council since March 2010 and future comments will be considered in the development of the Delta Plan and EIR. This process divides comments into categories that will be useful to the preparation of the Delta Plan and EIR. The comments are presented in a matrix that includes name of entity that submitted the comment, comment date, excerpt from the comment letter or email, and use of the comments in preparation of the documents. The September 2010 version of the comment matrix includes comments received between August 15, 2010 and September 13, 2010 (Agenda Item 17c).

### **List of Attachments**

Attachment 1 - September 14, 2010, Correspondence from the Office of the Attorney General, Regarding The Delta Stewardship Council's Roles and Responsibilities Under the California Environmental Quality Act Regarding Approval of the Delta Plan

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